



Examiners' Report Principal Examiner Feedback Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel GCE
In Arabic (9AA0)
Paper 2: Translation into Arabic and Written
response to works

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Introduction

The paper performed well and because all the questions varied, it gave students the opportunity to choose the most suitable question according to their level and ability. Some high performing students had the opportunity to choose technical questions which are seldom available. Some questions were challenging; however, students managed to perform well and highlight the main points required. As expected, there are students who mainly focus on description as opposed to analysing. Students are advised to read the novels and not depend on reading the summary as some questions are not relating to the main characters and can not be answered without reading the entire novel. Similarly, the films, need to be watched with a critical eye. The quality of the students writing and the content has improved in comparison to last year's series.

Question 1

The question required translation from English to Arabic of a short passage about unemployment. The most students attempted to work through the entire passage, the text paragraph given was at the required level. Except for 3 segments that were challenging, (10, 12 and 17). Many candidates knew the words but struggled in sentence construction due to lacking in Arabic grammar. Students will benefit from studying more grammar during the course of the year.

Question 2a

Majority of the students chose this question as it is related to the main character and his romantic relationship which failed drastically and left an impact on him. Although the answers varied at different levels as the question was linked directly to the novel and could be answered by reading the novel once.

Question 2b

Many students chose this question, and some performed well and understood the question, However, some had drifted to answer a question in the previous series for Q2b by missing the key word of the question regarding "co-existence" and instead just explained the two different cultures (East and West).

Question 3a

The question was about the main characters of the novel, who played different roles in the novel and this allowed most students to perform well. This question was targeted at students aiming to gain a high grade and seems to have to meet the expectations with some candidates achieving high marks. It is clear that they read and understood the novel well.

Question 3b

This question was not very popular among the students due to the question requiring a good understanding and having read the novel critically. Few Students managed to answer on a very high level. The students were required to analyse why the Author has chosen the title for the novel (The lava hunter). Most students who chose to respond to this question managed to provide a relevant response throughout and completed the task exceptionally well.

Question 4a

This was a character question regarding two characters who were mentioned in the first chapter of the play, which allowed the students to perform well. Although occasionally they steered away from the task and move to descriptive writing instead. Resulting in losing some marks.

Question 5a

This question was about the main character of the movie. some candidates show misunderstanding in their response and only discussed the general points about the family life. Although the question was specific (responsibility of the mother). Students are advised to read the question attentively and understand the required task.

Question 5b

Not many students answered as it was not about the main character of the film. It seems that candidates enjoy questions about the main character of the film. However, this question was about the struggle of the widow in the Arab society through the film which required a deep explanation and understanding and analysis of the issue. Often, candidates focus on the main character and seldom focus on other issues in the novels or films.

Question 6a

This question was not about the main character; however, it was about Mahkroos who had a big role in the film and has a huge influence on the turning of events in the film. He kept the entertainment alive throughout the film with all his unique talents. The students who managed to answer this question performed well.

Question 6b

This question was not popular among the students. The question was not regarding the main character and aimed at those seeking to explore their skills and talents especially that the question is about the Rumour in the Arab society. They manage to answer well. As the phenomenon was predominantly on all

aspects of the film. Students are advised to watch the film and address all the issues that are raised by the director during the film.

Question 7a

This was the most popular question among the students, as it refers to one of the main characters of the film (the principal of the school) who has a huge influence on the main character (Wajda) of the film. The director portrays many societal issues, through this character which allowed the students to have a variety to analyse and elaborate on. However, some students are still driven to describing and summarising the movie instead of analysing and elaborating on the particular question. Yet almost all of those who attempted answering this question has achieved good marks, and their answers demonstrated a strong interest and understanding of those issues.

Question 7b

This was the second most popular question that was chosen by many, as it was relating to a very sensitive topic in the Arab world (polygamy). Many students addressed the question well and demonstrated a good understanding of the nature of the topic in which they exhibited a enthusiastic spirit of empathy towards women in the Arab world consequently this contributed in their ability to discuss this matter in great detail and as a result the marks were excellent and the essays were enjoyable to read.

